

back and recognizing that the victory of liberty over tyranny was the fulcrum of the 20th century.

As we look at that Mall and we think about the history of this Nation, we have the Washington Monument; yes, a monument to a person, but, more importantly, a monument to the founding of our republic.

Then not so far from it on the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial; yes, a memorial to a person, a great person, but also a memorial to the preservation of our union.

Now, for the 20th century, we add to this expression of the history of the United States a memorial to the victory of liberty over tyranny.

The 18th, 19th, and 20th century come together at one moment, in fact, in the revised design of this new memorial. There will be a light fixture in the central sculpture within the Rainbow Falls that will cast itself on the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Memorial at the exact place where the Washington Monument's shadow is cast in the reflecting pool in a way that the 18th, 19th, and 20th century all come together in celebration of freedom.

This is exactly the place where this memorial belongs. In fact, if you walk the Mall today, the disrepair of the Rainbow Fountains is a disgrace. And so, the improvements that will be made with the refined design will elevate us all as a people and the expression of our own history.

I believe, along with all the others who have spoken, that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and those who have expressed some concerns about the design have been involved in the refinement and improvement of this expression of a free people. Thank goodness we have had over 22 public hearings, various approvals of the Fine Arts Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission, because with every step, it has become better, as it should.

On this Memorial Day that we will celebrate next week, we honor all veterans, all freedom lovers, certainly the 16 million World War II veterans who made our freedom and our ability to stand on this floor today as a free people possible.

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We also remember the 5 million who still are living today and whom we hope will see our seriousness in celebrating and commemorating what they have done for the world. Whoever would have thought that we would live at a time or we would have witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall, and brand new nations emerge with a chance, just a chance, for independence as Eastern and Central Europe come online. Imagine we are able to even e-mail people that we could not even talk to 20 years ago or 40 years ago. What an incredible new moment this is in the history of humankind.

I want to thank all of the Presidents, and there have now been three: Presi-

dent George Bush back in the 1980s, who signed the original authorizing legislation for the memorial; President Bill Clinton, who signed the memorial coins that were minted to pay the costs for the beginning of the memorial's planning; and now, our new President George W. Bush, who has endorsed the construction of this memorial.

President Clinton stood with us as we dedicated the ground. I am sure President George W. Bush will be there when the memorial is finally constructed.

I want to thank the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, Anthony Principi, for the good words that he spoke this morning in support of this memorial.

So as we think about the importance of this place in American history, let us remember the significance of what these greatest Americans, this greatest generation of Americans, did for the freedom of humankind. Let us build this memorial in a timely way as the 21st century's way of saying thank you to the 20th century and its champions.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the Members of the House and the Senate that supported us; but I want to single out a few for special thanks: the chairmen, my two good friends, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) of the Committee on Resources, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and also their ranking members, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) of the Committee on Resources.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who began this effort some 12 years ago or more, and she still remains a steadfast champion of the World War II veterans. And I appreciate her support very much.

On behalf of the House, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Senators LOTT and DASCHLE for moving this through the Senate so expeditiously, and also single out Senators HUTCHINSON, THOMPSON, STEVENS, and MURKOWSKI for their help on this bill.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the following organizations, which sent in letters of support on H.R. 1696, they are: The American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US; Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; AMVETS; The Retired Officers Association; Non Commissioned Officers Association; Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association; Blinded Veterans Association; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Jewish War Veterans of the USA; Association of the United States Army; Fleet Reserve Association; Veterans' Widows International Network, Inc.; National Association for Uniformed Services, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank members of the American Battle Monuments Commission for their professionalism and dedication to building a memorial that will do justice to our Nation's veterans and our desire to honor those who participated in World War II.

I am absolutely certain that the American Battle Monuments Commission will produce a memorial that all Americans can take pride in for generations to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1696, as amended, a bill that would expedite construction of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia. This memorial for the most significant event of the twentieth century is already long overdue, but today Congress is taking action to remove the roadblocks holding up construction of the memorial.

I commend our Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle for expeditiously taking up H.R. 1696 after House passage on May 15, 2001, and for the thoughtful dialogue that led to the compromise language in the Senate amendment to the bill. I believe that we now have legislation that accomplishes the objectives we sought: to establish definitely that the memorial's location will remain the Rainbow Pool between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial; that the overall design already selected will be what is built; and that any pending lawsuits will be rendered moot.

Again, I salute the leadership of my distinguished colleague, BOB STUMP, in introducing H.R. 1696, managing its House passage, and negotiating with the Senate on an amendment acceptable to both bodies. I associate myself with his remarks in their substance and in recognizing the contributions of many Members to this legislation.

President Bush's expression of support on May 16, 2001 for moving quickly to begin construction of the memorial gave our legislation a real boost and was much appreciated. He has made it clear he will sign this bill. And with Memorial Day approaching, how could we do less than ensure that our World War II veterans will be honored on this prominent site on the Mall?

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary action Congress is taking here is not the sort of thing we should do often, but I am convinced that in this instance it is appropriate and necessary. I hope it will serve as a reminder that the patience of Congress and the American people is not endless, and that the agencies and commissions of government are constitutionally accountable to Congress as well as the courts.

The bill would allow the normal and necessary administrative decisions to be made in carrying out the design as memorial construction proceeds. However, I think it is obvious that Congress will not lose its keen interest in the progress of the memorial once this legislation is enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate having approved the compromise bill by unanimous consent, I urge every Member of the House to join in supporting our World War II veterans by giving favorable consideration to H.R. 1696, as amended.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.